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LETTER DATED 22 JULY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the Iranian side's continued violations of the cease-fire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation, signed by both countries, between 24 March and 8 July 1996, as reported in the annex hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

1. 24 March 1996

At 0830 hours, the Iranian side occupied two new outposts on the east bank of the drainage canal in the area opposite Haql Majnoon (South) at coordinates 565330 and 565349. The occupation force comprised some five to seven persons with one medium machine-gun, each of them armed with a light rifle, and erected a rampart around the outposts and closed off all the approaches to them.

2. 26 March 1996

The Iranian side established a military outpost comprising six persons armed with type GC light weapons. They put two caravans in position, at coordinates 594179, one of them orange coloured and the other grey, and put up a tent.

3. 18 April 1996

At 1320 hours, a grey Iranian boat with a 200-horsepower Yamaha engine approached our territorial waters in the Sayhan area at coordinates 310576. On board were four people in civilian clothes. They had a video camera with them and twice took pictures of the area.

4. 18 April 1996

At 1700 hours, about 200 members of Iranian families, women, men and children, were seen on the Iranian rampart opposite Shahiniyah at coordinates 3066. With them there was a man wearing a turban who spoke to them for half an hour, after which they withdrew from the area.

5. 18 April 1996

At 1730 hours, a black Iranian boat with a 48-horsepower engine approached carrying three people in civilian clothes. They had a video camera with them and took pictures of the Sayhan area on one occasion.

6. 27 April 1996

At 1600 hours, an Iranian helicopter was seen in the area opposite Haql Majnoon (North) at coordinates 564490. It came from the Iranian hinterland flying at an altitude of 200 metres and approached to a distance of 400 metres from the international boundary. At 1610 hours it returned to the Iranian hinterland.

7. 20 May 1996

At 0400 hours, a small Iranian boat carrying two soldiers infiltrated our territorial waters in the Fao area and tried to enter a restricted zone at coordinates 591872. When one of our patrols overtook it, the Iranian boat

opened fire on it. Fire was returned, and the Iranian boat made off in the direction of the Iranian shore.

8. 5 June 1996

At 1800 hours, two military helicopters were seen flying back and forth at low altitude at a distance of 2 kilometres from the border rampart opposite our units at coordinates 723322 (Asyud area). At 1830 hours they returned to the Iranian hinterland.

9. 16 June 1996

At 1600 hours, a yellow Iranian fibreglass boat with a 200-horsepower Yamaha engine with four civilians on board armed with Kalashnikov rifles kidnapped four fishermen, Faris Abd al-Hafiz, Abd al-Husayn Abd al-Hafiz, Latif Abd al-Jalil and Righab Yusuf, while they were fishing in our territorial waters in the Shatt al-Arab, close to the Ma'amil area at coordinates 5427, and took them to the Iranian shore.

10. 28 June 1996

At 1720 hours, the Iranian side fired an 81-mm mortar smoke bomb in the area opposite Aridat Sanubah. It fell behind our units at coordinates 4949.

11. 8 July 1996

At 2230 hours, an Iranian patrol boat with three civilians armed with Kalashnikov rifles on board seized an Iraqi fishing boat in our territorial waters in the area of Mutatawwi'ah at coordinates 293660 and took it to the Iranian side together with its crew, Karim Abd al-Imam, Hamid Shahab and Hasan Ali. They were all residents of Basra Governorate (Abu al-Khasib). A number of Iraqi fishermen tried to approach the scene of the incident but they were forced to withdraw when the Iranians fired on them.